

Bowden and Melrose Church October 2020



**I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord
and put their trust in him.
(Psalm 40:1-3)**

The Manse,
Melrose
October 2020

Dear Friends,

'He put a new song in my mouth'.... Over these last months, we've had to learn how to worship in new ways and that need for innovation continues as we approach our time of Remembrance. This year there will be no formal parades, no coming together at war memorials, so here are some suggestions....



[#ProjectNova](#) suggests painting a poppy on a pebble and either placing it at a local war memorial or at a war grave in your local cemetery...

During lockdown we all put rainbows in our windows for the NHS and key workers, so place a poppy picture in your window in remembrance of those who lived and died in the service of our country.

Stand at your doorstep to observe the 2 minute silence at 11.00am on Wednesday 11th November 2020.

Those who normally place a poppy wreath at a memorial will be asked to select a representative to lay the wreath in their own time.

Don't forget to donate to one of the charities that support those still bearing the scars of war.

Stay safe, take care, God bless

Rosie

Bowden Kirk

Bowden Kirk will re-open for Sunday worship at 9.30am on Remembrance Sunday, **8th November**. We can accommodate between 9 and 18 people depending on the number of households present. 2 metre distancing must be observed, you must wear a face covering at all times, and you will be asked to use hand sanitiser on entry and exit. If we reach our capacity you will be turned away. Sorry!

Booking a seat / Trace and Protect

Bowden Kirk can accommodate up to 18 and Melrose Church up to 50. Until now we have asked those worshipping to book ahead of time to guarantee a seat. **There will be no need to book as of Monday 19th October**. However, if we reach the capacity for the building you will be turned away. Each household attending will be asked to fill in a card detailing name(s) and telephone number. The cards will be collected at the end of the service and will form our register for Trace and Protect. They will be destroyed after 4 weeks in accordance with data protection regulations.

Ways to worship

Your safety at this time is paramount. Please don't take risks. There are many other ways of joining in worship.

You can watch the Facebook Live broadcast on Sundays at 11.00am on our Facebook page –

<https://www.facebook.com/Bowden-and-Melrose-Parish-Church-432876940395760>

or watch the recording later on both Facebook and the church website.

You can listen to a shorter online service on Facebook and the church website

<https://www.bowdenandmelroseparish.org/covid.html>

You can listen by phoning 01896 808551 during the following week.

Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal

As usual, we are inviting you to fill a shoebox for Blythswood Care as a Christmas gift for a man, woman or child who may not have much to celebrate this Christmas. You can find out more about the shoebox appeal at

<https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/>

You can download a checklist at

<https://blythswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-SBA-checklist.pdf>

We are collecting shoeboxes at Melrose Church on Sunday mornings. You can also take them to the collection van which will be at the Abbey car park on Monday 26 October, between 2.20 and 2.50pm.

Offerings

We may be doing church in a very different way but we need to continue to support the work of the church locally and nationally. There are a number of ways that you can make your offering - at worship on a Sunday morning, online on the church website, by sending a cheque to the church office or by setting up a standing order. The information you need - Bowden and Melrose Parish Church; Sort Code 83-25-12; Account Number 00203259. Please use your name as the reference. Thank you.

